

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FIGARO ON PROBLEMS OF SOVIET PERFORMING
ARTISTS

1. MARCH 17 FIGARO USED ROSTROPOVICH LOSS SOVIET
CITIZENSHIP AS OCCASION RECOUNT SERIES MISADVEN-
TURES SURROUNDING PARIS OPERA PRODUCTION TSCHAIKOVSKY
OPERA "QUEEN OF SPADES" WHICH PAPER SAYS ILLUSTRATES
"SYSTEMATIC INTOLERANCE SOVIET CULTURAL SERVICES."

2. PARIS PRODUCTION OF "QUEEN", NOW SCHEDULED OPEN
JULY, WAS TO BE CONDUCTED BY ROSTROPOVICH WITH
VISHNEVSKAYA IN PRINCIPAL ROLE. PAPER CONTENDS SOVIET
CULTURAL OFFICIALS FAILED TRANSMIT CONTRACTS TO ARTISTS
WHICH LED TO OPERA'S POSTPONEMENT. ROSTROPOVICH THEN
COMPOUNDED PROBLEM BY RECORDING OPERA FOR GERMAN RECORD-
ING COMPANY, WHICH REPORTEDLY INCURRED WRATH OF PARIS
OPERA DIRECTOR ROLF LIEBERMANN. OUT OF FAVOR WITH BOTH
SOVIET OFFICIALS AND PARIS OPERA, ROSTROOOVICH/
VISHNEVSKAYA WERE THEN REPLACED BY ROZHDESTVENSKY/
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LYOUBIMOV WHO, PAPER REPORTS, ARE SCHEDULED BEGIN REHEAR-
SALS HERE MAY 23. (FIGARO SUGGESTS ROSTROPOVICH DECIDED
THEN THAT ARTISTIC FREEDOM COULD ONLY BE FOUND FARTHER
WEST, AN ILLUSION TO HIS APPOINTMENT TO WASHINGTON
NATIONAL SYMPHONY.)

3. MEANWHILE PARIS OPERA PRODUCTION OF "ROMEO AND

JULIETTE" BY YURI GIGOROVICH AND ALGIS JURAITIS WAS PANNED BY FRENCH CRITICS. FIGARO SAYS GRIGOROVICH/JURAITIS RETURNED TO MOSCOW "MORTIFIED AND FURIOUS" AND INTENT ON PREVENTING ROZHDESTVENSKY/LYOUBIMOV FROM FOLLOWING THEM TO PARIS LEST LATTER SUCCEED WHERE THEIR MORE ORTHODOX SUPERIORS FAILED.

4. FIGARO NEXT DAY (MARCH 18) PUBLISHED LETTER BY LIEBERMANN DENYING PARIS OPERA ALLOWS SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO DICTATE OPERA POLICIES AND DECISIONS AND EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE ROZHDESTVENSKY/LYOUBIMOV WILL FULFILL CONTRACTS. THIS ASSURANCE UNDERCUT HOWEVER BY PUBLICATION IN SAME ARTICLE OF LETTER WHICH LIEBERMANN ADDRESSED TO JURAITIS (NOW RETURNED TO CONDUCT "ROMEO") ACCUSING LATTER OF STEALING ADVANCE SCORE OF LYOUBIMOV'S "QUEEN OF SPADES" FROM OPERA PREMISES AND INSTRUCTING HIM TO STAY AWAY FROM BUILDING WHEN NOT PERFORMING OR REHEARSING "ROMEO". FIGARO SURMISED THEFT DESIGNED PROVIDE SOVIET OFFICIALS FURTHER MATERIAL WITH WHICH DISCREDIT LYOUBIMOV AND EVENTUALLY BAR HIS TRAVEL ABROAD. (MARCH 17 ARTICLE NOTED LYOUBIMOV'S DEPARTURES FROM SOVIET CULTURAL DICTATES IN TAGANKA PRODUCTIONS AND APPARENT DIFFICULTY HE EXPERIENCED BRINGING THEATER TO PARIS LAST FALL.)

5. ARTICLE ALSO VOICED CONCERN FOR MAYA PLISETSKAYA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHO, DURING LAST PARIS VISIT, CRITICIZED GRIGOROVICH'S MANAGEMENT OF BOLSHOI AND, ACCORDING TO PAPER, HAS CANCELLED ALL APPEARANCES IN WEST DURING PAST SIX MONTHS. PAYEFF

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